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REF: GOODEBY/MELTON TELCON

2. MOST PAPERS COMMENT ON THE BROAD ISSUES OF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION AND THE WESTERN RESPONSE, BUT SEVERAL COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

3. SUNDAY TIMES CORRESPONDENT HENRY BRANDON REPORTS JANUARY 5 THAT PRESIDENT CARTER "IS CONFRONTING RUSSIA OVER AFGHANISTAN WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE... BUT ANYTHING SHORT OF THE PACKAGE OF RETALIATORY MEASURES ANNOUNCED ON FRIDAY WOULD HAVE COST HIM HIS CREDIBILITY... THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD THERE WILL BE STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS." BRANDON NOTES THAT IRAN IS STILL OF DEEPER CONCERN TO THE US, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE HOSTAGES BUT BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF IRAN'S DISINTEGRATION AND THE LIKELIHOOD THIS WOULD BENEFIT THE USSR. BRANDON SAYS, "CARTER SPOKE WITH QUIET FIRMNESS BUT ALSO DEEP ANXIETY. THE IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN CRISES HAVE FINALLY TRIGGERED A NEW REALIZATION IN HIM THAT THE SURVIVAL OF THE WEST WILL ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON WHO CONTROLS THIS REGION AND THAT THE US HAD TO CONFRONT THE USSR TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN HER LEADERSHIP AND TO BEGIN BUILDING A NEW CONVENTIONAL BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION."

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AVAILABLE TO THE WEST AND THAT "THE WEST HAD TO MAKE AN INSTANT RESPONSE TO SHOW IT HAS NOT ENTIRELY LOST ITS NERVE." THE SUNDAY TIMES SAYS THE WEST MUST NOW "DRAW LINES THE KREMLIN WILL NOT DARE TO CROSS." THE WEST SHOULD ALSO ORGANIZE A NEW "COLLABORATIVE LINKING OF THE ENTIRE NON-SOVIET WORLD" TO INCLUDE A NEW INTERNATIONAL RESERVE CURRENCY AND A RETHINKING OF THE WEST'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEC COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE ONLY "SENSIBLE RESPONSE" TO THE "CORE OF THE INSTABILITY" SURFACING IN THE 1970S THAT IS THE SOURCE OF MOSCOW'S FEARS AND AMBITIONS, AND OF THE MENACE TO THE NON-SOVIET WORLD."

5. A SUNDAY OBSERVER EDITORIAL (JANUARY 6) LINES THE
BLOCKING OF GRAIN AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO THE
SOVIET UNION AS THE "LESS SERIOUS" OF THE COUNTERMEASURES
ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT. IT NOTES THE PRESIDENT
"POLITICALLY MAY HAVE HAD LITTLE CHOICE ABOUT STOPPING
GRAIN EXPORTS AND THIS MIGHT HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT OF
MAKING THE SOVIET UNION THINK TWICE ABOUT SUCH ADVENTURES
IN THE FUTURE. IT IS, HOWEVER, A TWO-EDGED SWORD, FOR
THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST USE OF THE OIL WEAPON APPLY EQUALLY
TO GRAIN, EXCEPT THAT AN OIL-EMBARGO OR CUTBACK WOULD BE
MORE IMMEDIATELY DAMAGING FOR THE WEST." THE OBSERVER
ASKS WHETHER THE AIM OF WESTERN POLICY IS TO PUNISH THE
SOVIETS OR HELP THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN AND OTHER THIRD
WORLD COUNTRIES "LOOKING FOR THE WAY TO A BETTER LIFE."
IF THE SECOND, THE OBSERVER RECOMMENDS WESTERN POLICY
"AVOID ANY PRECIPITATE ACTION WHICH WOULD PROLONG THE
STAY OF SOVIET FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN." REGISTER

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